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AUTHOR Buser, Robert L.: Humm, William L., Ed.
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ABSTRACT

This report describes results of a study of secondary school student participation in extracurricular activities. The activity offerings were identified and classified into eleven groups: 1) class-related, 2) athletics, 3) music, 4) school services, 5) drama, 6) school publications, 7) personal interests, 8) honor, 9) student government, 10) cheerleading, and 11) social. Tables illustrate the number of activities offered in each category, percentage of female participation, percentage of total student participation, and frequency of activities. A discussion of the findings follows. (CJ)

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Illinois Secondary School Course Offerings

Illinois State Board of Education

Research and Statistics

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Special Report on COCURRICULAR OFFERINGS

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SPECIAL REPORT ON COCURRICULAR
OFFERINGS AND PARTICIPATION

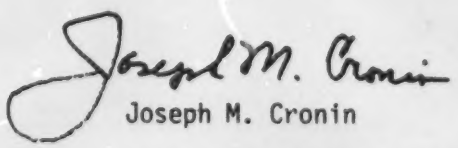
SEP 2 1980

FOREWORD

In 1977 the Illinois State Board of Education in cooperation with the Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development conducted a Census of Secondary School Course Offerings, Enrollments, and Cocurricular Activities. This was the first such statewide census of basic curriculum data in Illinois. The Census was designed to produce normative data relative to offerings and enrollments in Illinois public secondary schools and to establish a source of data on secondary school curriculum at the peak of public high school enrollment.

The Census project was conducted and the general report was written by Dr. William L. Humm, Research Scientist, Research and Statistics Section, Illinois State Board of Education. This special report on cocurricular offerings and participation was written by Dr. Robert L. Buser, Professor of Educational Leadership, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and edited by Dr. Humm. It is based on statistics from the Census project.

Observations and conclusions in this report are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent policies or views of the Illinois State Board of Education or the State Superintendent of Education.



Joseph M. Cronin

State Superintendent of Education

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HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY

* Statewide, cocurricular activities were reported by 300 activity titles in high schools and by about two-thirds that number in junior high schools.

* Athletics and sports-related were clearly the most popular student cocurricular activities in both high schools and junior high schools as evidenced both by the number of activities reported and by the relative proportions of students participating.

* One-third of the participants in high school athletics and sports were female; over two-fifths in junior high schools were female.

* Second in popularity in both high schools and junior high schools was music-related activities; third was class-related clubs and activities.

* Females represented the majority participation in areas of music, class, drama, governance, honors, service, cheerleading, publications, and social related activities.

* The level of participation by females and males in cocurricular activities was similar, but participation patterns among the areas of activities differed.

* The proportion of participation in cocurricular activities decreased as school size increased, more noticeably in athletic, music, and class related areas.

THE COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES STUDY

The Study of Cocurricular Activities in Illinois Public Secondary Schools, 1976-77, was a facet of the Census of Secondary School Course Offerings, Enrollments and Cocurricular Activities survey conducted jointly by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The cocurricular activity portion of the project was designed to collect information about the nature-extent of offerings and the nature-extent of participation by sex in both the public junior high schools and the public high schools of Illinois. The data source was provided by administrators, typically principals, for the 1976-77 school year.

The findings in this report were based on data reported for 622 public high schools and 432 public junior high schools, a representation of 84 percent and 91 percent respectively of the Illinois public secondary schools in 1976-77. The findings did not include data from the Chicago City Schools.

Activity Categories

For purposes of data analysis and reporting, the activity offerings identified in the study were grouped into eleven categories. These are:

1. Class Related. Those activities that are mainly subject, school, and career oriented other than hobby, leisure, school service, and the arts. Examples included in this group are science, social studies, mathematics, diversified occupations, student nurses, Future Business Leaders of America, Distributive Education Clubs of America, Future Homemakers of America, human relations, environment-ecology, Voice of Democracy clubs/organizations.

2. Athletic and Sports Related. Those activities, individual and team, interscholastic or intramural, as well as those activities directly related to the support of these activities. Included in this group are activities such as basketball, bowling, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, golf, handball, letter clubs, sportsman clubs, aquatics, and intramurals.

3. Music Related. Those musical activities that are performance or leisure in their orientation such as band, chorus, ensembles, musical productions, twirlers, color guards, and folksinging and barbershop clubs.

4. Service Related. Those activities whose primary purposes are to serve the needs of the school and society such as audio-visual, library, student patrol and ushers clubs, as well as National Junior Red Cross, color guards, and student assistants to teachers.

5. Drama Related. Those activities that are performance oriented such as class plays and drama productions; those that support productions like stage crews; and related associations including

debate clubs, the National Forensic League, and the National Thespian Society.

6. School Publication Related. These include school publications--yearbook and newspaper--journalism clubs, and publication photographers.

7. Hobby and Leisure Related. Those activities that are designed for personal interests, primarily avocational in nature, such as hobby clubs, roller skating, table games, photography, railroad clubs, and checkers or chess teams.

8. Honors Related. Those activities which acknowledge individual student achievement in areas of the academics or school service such as the National Honor Society and the foreign language honor societies.

9. Governance Related. These include those activities through which students participate in the direction and management of the school such as the student council, class officers, and school/class advisory councils.

10. Cheerleading and Pep Club Related. This category includes cheerleaders, pep clubs, and pom pom groups that are closely associated with the support of interscholastic, particularly athletic teams.

11. Social Related. Those activities that are designed to develop the socialization skills and the personal interests of students including dance, recreation associations, YMCA, YWCA, Hi-Y, and Y-Teens.

The remainder of the report is organized into three sections: The High School (public) Cocurricular Offerings/Participation/Schedule; the Junior High School (public) Cocurricular Offerings/Participation/Schedule; and Summary and Discussion.

HIGH SCHOOL COCURRICULAR: OFFERINGS/PARTICIPATION/SCHEDULE

Table 1 reports the distribution of respondents by school size with their respective enrollments. It will be noted that over half (54%) of the schools represented enrolled less than 500 students, for a combined enrollment of less than one-fifth (17%) of the student population. Even though the majority of the schools represented were under 500 in enrollment, nearly one-half (47%) of the students attended schools of 1700 or more in enrollment. Almost one-third (29%) of the schools ranged in size from 500 to 1699 students and accounted for slightly more than one-third (36%) of the enrollment.

TABLE 1

SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY SCHOOL SIZE AND ENROLLMENTS

	Size of School					
	<200	200-499	500-999	1000-1699	1700-2599	2600>
Number of Schools	114	224	102	83	68	31
% of Schools	18	36	16	13	11	5
Enrollments	17,348	74,059	71,958	114,380	142,154	103,255
% of Enrollments	3	14	14	22	27	20

Total Enrollment: 523,154

Activity Offerings

Table 2 (see page 7) presents the number of activity titles reported by activity categories and school size. Almost one-third (32%) of the titles were class or subject related; approximately one-fourth (23%) were athletic related while slightly over one-tenth were music related and service related respectively.

Observations/Interpretations

* There were approximately 300 activity titles reported in the Illinois public high schools.

* The number of activities increased appreciably with school size in the class, athletic, service, and social related categories.

* There was a minimal increase in titles offered in the music, hobby, drama, honors, publications, governance, and cheerleading related categories that appeared to be a function of school size.

* The largest portion of the activity titles were in the categories of class related (32%), athletic/sport related (23%), music related (13%), service related (12%), and social related (8%).

* The portion of activity titles was considerably smaller--less than three percent each--in the hobby/leisure, drama, honors, publications, governance, and cheerleading/pep-related areas.

TABLE 2

NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY TITLES REPORTED BY SCHOOL SIZE, RANKED BY NUMBER OF TITLES PER ACTIVITY CATEGORY

Rank	Activity Category	Total N	<200	200-499	500-999	1000-1699	1700-2599	2600>
1	Class	95	25	41	56	60	62	51
2	Athletic/Sport	67	20	33	35	41	49	48
3	Music	39	20	24	22	23	31	16
4	Service	36	14	16	22	22	26	22
5	Social	25	6	10	9	10	15	13
6	Hobby/Leisure	8	2	4	5	2	7	4
7	Drama	7	4	4	5	6	7	6
8	Honors	6	3	5	4	5	4	3
9	Publications	4	2	2	3	3	2	2
10	Governance	4	2	3	3	3	3	4
11	Cheerleading/Pep	4	3	3	3	4	4	3

Activity Participation

Table 3 presents the extent of student participation in the various activity categories with the percent of female participation in each. It should be noted that the number of students participating tends to be inflated to the extent that students participate in more than one activity, e.g., football and track, within a category.

TABLE 3

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION RANKED BY TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WITH PERCENT OF PARTICIPANTS THAT ARE FEMALE

Rank	Category	No. Participants	% Students (% Enrollment) Participating	% Female Participants (of All Particip.)
1	Athletic/Sport	258,390	49	35
2	Music	116,100	22	60
3	Class	104,482	20	59
4	Drama	30,665	6	60
5	Governance	23,525	4	61
6	Honors	23,258	4	62
7	Service	21,894	4	64
8	Cheerleading	19,706	4	93
9	Publications	14,024	3	65
10	Social	6,878	1	81
11	Hobby/Leisure	3,067	1	39

Observations/Interpretations

* Athletics and sports were the most popular activities as evidenced by both numbers and portions of students participating by a ratio exceeding two to one.

* Almost one-half (49%) of the high school students participated in athletic or sports related activities, with another four percent participating indirectly through cheerleading and pep clubs that are closely associated with athletic related.

* Slightly over one-third (35%) of the participants in athletics and sports related were females.

* Approximately one in five students participated in music and class related activities respectively. In both categories females participated more extensively than males by a ratio of approximately three to two.

* Only four out of 100 students participated in either governance, honors, service, publications, social, or hobby/leisure related categories. And, in each of these categories except the hobby/leisure related, females participated more extensively by a ratio of at least three to two.

* About six of each one hundred students participated in drama related activities.

* Female and male students participated in cocurricular activities to approximately the same extent, but in different areas.

Table 4 presents the distribution of high school activity categories based upon the number of students who participated in cocurricular activities. It should be noted that these percentages reflected the relative portions among activity participants as contrasted with portions of the total high school enrollment which were reported in Table 3 above.

TABLE 4

DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES BY CATEGORY
AMONG ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS RANK ORDERED

Rank	Category	% Participation
1	Athletic/Sport	41
2	Music	19
3	Class	17
4	Drama	5
5	Governance	4
6	Honors	4
7	Service	4
8	Cheerleading/Pep	3
9	Publications	2
10	Social	1
11	Hobby/Leisure	1

Observations/Interpretations

* Approximately two in five of the activity participants were in athletic/sport related areas with slightly less than one in five participants each in the music or class related areas.

* Less than one in twenty of the activity participants were involved in the areas of drama, governance, service, publications, social, or the hobby/leisure related.

Table 5 reports the portions of Illinois high school students reported to be participating in cocurricular activities by the size of schools. It should be noted that these estimates tend to be inflated, since many students might have participated in several activities within a category, e.g., basketball and cross country.

TABLE 5

ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITY CATEGORIES BY SCHOOL SIZE

Category	<200	200-499	500-999	1000-1699	1700-2599	2600>
Athletic	92	76	55	43	43	35
Music	56	39	29	18	17	10
Class	62	37	29	13	12	14
Drama	11	6	7	6	5	6
Honors	6	6	5	4	4	4
Service	6	4	4	4	5	4
Cheerleading	10	7	5	3	3	1
Student Council	8	5	4	2	2	2
Publications	8	4	4	2	2	1
Class Officer	5	3	1	1	1	1
Social	1	1	1	1	1	3
Hobby/Leisure	1	1	1	1	1	1

Observations/Interpretations

* The portion of students who participated in activities decreased appreciably as school size increased in almost all categories, but particularly in the athletic, music, and class related.

* About nine-tenths of the students participated in athletics/sports in schools of less than 200 as compared to one-half in schools of 500 to 999 and slightly over one-third in schools over 1000.

* Slightly over one-half of the students participated in music in schools enrolling less than 200, less than one-third participated in schools of 500 to 999, and less than one-fifth participated in schools over 1000 in enrollment.

* Class related activities enrolled almost three-fifths of the students in schools less than 200, approximately one-third in schools of 200-999, and something more than one in ten in schools of 1000 and over.

* The portion of students who participated in the honors, service, and drama was relatively consistent as schools increased in size above 200.

Table 6 indicates the portion of female participants for each of the various activity categories by school size. Once again these estimates would be expected to be high, since students might be expected to participate in several activities within a category, e.g., band and ensembles.

TABLE 6

PERCENT OF PARTICIPANTS WHO WERE FEMALE BY SCHOOL SIZE

Category	< 200	200-499	500-999	1000-1699	1700-2599	2600 >
Athletic	43	40	34	31	33	30
Music	62	62	61	58	58	54
Class	57	57	59	59	61	64
Drama	57	61	62	60	59	60
Honors	65	64	62	61	61	63
Service	68	70	65	67	61	61
Cheerleading/Pep	91	90	93	98	92	95
Student Council	52	56	64	65	65	63

TABLE 6 (continued)

Category	<200	200-499	500-999	1000-1699	1700-2599	2600>
Publications	70	70	68	60	61	59
Class Officer	51	55	62	64	67	64
Social	60	55	74	88	82	87
Hobby/Leisure	28	40	47	36	39	35

Observations/Interpretations[1]

* The range of female participants in athletics/sports related activities was from slightly more than two-fifths in the small schools to less than one-third in the schools over 1000 in enrollment.

* The portion of female participants appeared to decrease as school size increased in the athletic/sports related area.

* Female participation exceeded male participation appreciably in all categories other than the athletic/sports and hobby/leisure related--regardless of school size.

* Female participation exceeded that of males predominantly in the drama, honors, service, cheerleading, publications, and social related areas.

* In the class and student governance areas, females represented a majority participation--though somewhat less than in other non-athletic categories.

* The cheerleading and pep related area was dominated by female participants by a ratio exceeding nine of ten in all size schools.

Table 7 indicates the portion of students participating and the ratio of female students reported as participants within selected, specific activities, clustered by general activity categories.

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[1]It should be noted that these observations assume a 50:50 distribution of female:male for schools of all sizes.

TABLE 7

PERCENT OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT THAT PARTICIPATED IN SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES WITH NUMBER OF FEMALES PER 100 PARTICIPANTS RANKED BY TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WITHIN EACH GENERAL CATEGORY

Activity	Rank	% Students Participating	# Females/ 100
Athletic/Sports Related			
Track/Field	1	8	39
Football	2	7	1
Basketball	3	7	27
Baseball	4	4	2
Wrestling	5	3	2
Girls Athletic Assoc.	6	3	98
Volleyball	7	3	98
Intramurals	8	2	34
Tennis	9	2	47
Softball	10	2	95
Cross Country	11	1	8
Golf	12	1	9
Letter Varsity Club	13	1	24
Snow Skiing	14	1	50
Gymnastics	15	1	49
Aquatics	16	1	49
Soccer	17	1	11
Bowling	18	1	77
Badminton	19	1	91
Swimming	20	1	47

TABLE 7 (continued)

Activity	Rank	% Students Participating	# Females/ 100
Music Related			
Chorus, Choir, Glee Club	1	4	71
Marching Band	2	4	57
Musical Productions	3	3	61
Concert Band	4	3	56
Pep Band	5	2	54
Stage Band	6	1	40
Vocal Ensembles	7	1	66
Instrumental Ensembles	8	1	54
Modern Music Masters	9	1	59
Orchestra	10	1	61
Class Related			
Foreign Language	1	4	66
Future Homemakers of America	2	3	96
Future Farmers of America	3	3	14
Science	4	1	50
Art	5	1	65
Vocational, Industrial	6	1	37
Dist. Educ. of Amer.	7	1	53
Mathematics	8	1	49
Industrial Arts	9	1	8
Future Teachers of America	10	1	80
Girls' Nation	11	1	100

TABLE 7 (continued)

Activity	Rank	% Students Participating	# Females/ 100
Social Studies	12	1	63
Future Business Leaders of America	13	1	82
Office Educ. Assoc.	14	1	86
American Field Service	15	1	73
Drama Related			
Plays/Drama Clubs	1	4	61
National Thespian Society	2	1	61
Speech Club	3	1	61
Debate Club	4	1	51
Governance Related			
Student Council	1	3	61
Class Officer	2	1	59
Class Council	3	1	66
Student Advisory Council	4	1	51
Honor Related			
National Honor Society	1	4	62
Quill and Scroll	2	1	65
National Jr. Honor Society	3	1	64
Service Related			
Office Assistant	1	1	76
Library Assistant	2	1	73
Audio-Visual Assistant	3	1	23
Laboratory Assistant	4	1	52
School Service Club	5	1	73

TABLE 7 (continued)

Activity	Rank	% Students Participating	# Females/ 100
Cheerleading/Pep Related			
Cheerleading	1	2	97
Pep Clubs	2	1	82
Pom Pon	3	1	99
Publications Related			
Journalism Club	1	3	67
Newspaper Photographer	2	1	36
Social Related			
Tri Hi-Y	1	1	98
Girls' Recreation Assoc.	2	1	95
Dance	3	1	92
Hobby/Leisure Related			
Recreation Club	1	1	57
Photography Club	2	1	37
Chess Team	3	1	11
Hobby Club	4	1	60

Observations/Interpretations

Athletic/Sport Related

* Interscholastic team sports had appreciably more participants than individual or intramural sports.

* The most popular athletic activities were track and field, football, and basketball.

* The more popular sports activities in which the number of females exceeded the males were bowling, badminton, volleyball, softball, and field hockey.

* The number of male participants was appreciably greater than female in track and field, basketball, football, baseball, wrestling, intramurals, golf, cross country, and soccer.

* The number of female and male participants was approximately equal in tennis, snow skiing, gymnastics, and water related sports.

Music Related

* The number of female participants exceeded the male in all music areas except stage band, and particularly in the non-instrumental areas.

Class Related

* The number of female participants exceeded the male in most subject related clubs except FFA, industrial arts, and vocational-industrial, though all of these enrolled substantial portions of females.

Service Related

* The clubs that enrolled the greatest numbers of students were school service oriented--office assistant, library, audio-visual, laboratory, and school service clubs. The number of female participants exceeded males in all but the audio-visual area.

Activity Schedule

The frequencies with which high school activities typically were reported to meet are presented in Table 8. The percentages reported to meet during the respective time frames are indicated in parentheses.

TABLE 8

FREQUENCY WITH WHICH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TYPICALLY MET

Activity	Frequency	
	Weekly/More Often	Monthly
Athletic	x (88)	
Music	x (71)	
Class		x (49)[1]
Drama	x (36)[2]	
Honors		x (35)[3]

[1]19 percent reported weekly or more frequently.

[2]27 percent reported monthly.

[3]19 percent reported quarterly.

TABLE 8 (continued)

Activity	Frequency	
	Weekly/More Often	Monthly
Service	x (78)	
Cheerleading/Pep	x (88)	
Student Council	x (40)	
Publications	x (69)	
Class Officer		x (48)[4]
Social	x (52)	
Hobby/Leisure	x (62)	

[4]20 percent reported semi-monthly.

Observations/Interpretations

* Class, honors, and class officer related activities typically met less frequently than most other activity categories, typically monthly, while others met weekly or more frequently.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COCURRICULAR: OFFERINGS/PARTICIPATION/SCHEDULE

Activity Offerings

Table 9 presents the number of activity titles reported by categories in the public junior high schools in Illinois exclusive of the City of Chicago.

TABLE 9

NUMBER OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TITLES
RANKED BY NUMBER OF TITLES PER CATEGORY

Rank	Activity Category	Number
1	Class	65
2	Athletic/Sport	41
3	Service	25
4	Music	23
5	Social	19
6	Hobby/Leisure	9
7	Cheerleading/Pep	4
8	Drama	4
9	Honors	4
10	Publications	2
11	Governance	2

Observations/Interpretations

* There were approximately 200 activity titles reported in the Illinois public junior high schools.

* The largest number was in the class related which comprised one-third (33%) of the total offerings.

* Approximately one-fifth (21%) were athletic/sport related with slightly more than one-tenth (13%) being service or music (12%) related.

* The social related and hobby/leisure related accounted for ten and five percent of the titles respectively.

Activity Participation

Table 10 presents the extent of student participation in the various activity categories with the percent of participants who are female reported for each category. The categories are ranked by the number of participants for each. It should be noted that these estimates tend to be high since many students might be expected to participate in several activities within a category, e.g., basketball and track.

TABLE 10

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION RANKED BY TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WITH PERCENT OF FEMALE PARTICIPANTS

Rank	Category	No. Participants	% Female Participants
1	Athletic/Sport	133,963	40
2	Music	47,253	60
3	Class	14,655	53
4	Governance	11,299	55
5	Service	10,397	57
6	Cheerleading/Pep	7,307	95
7	Drama	6,399	61
8	Publications	4,676	66
9	Hobby/Leisure	1,729	38
10	Social	1,606	61
11	Honors	1,058	66

Observations/Interpretations

* Athletics and sports were the most popular category by a margin of almost three to one when compared to the number of students who participated in any other category.

* Music related was the second most popular area with approximately one-fifth (20%) of the participants reported as involved.

* The ratio of female to male participation was lowest in the categories of hobby/leisure (38:62) and athletic (40:60).

* The portion of female participants exceeded males in all activity areas excepting athletic and the hobby/leisure related.

Table 11 reports the distribution of participants within the activity categories drawn from the numbers of students reported as participating. Again, it should be noted that these estimates will be high to the extent that students might participate in more than one activity within a category.

TABLE 11

DISTRIBUTION OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORIES
BASED ON PARTICIPATION, RANK ORDERED

Rank	Category	% Participation
1	Athletic/Sport	56
2	Music	20
3	Class	6
4	Governance	5
5	Service	4
6	Cheerleading/Pep	3
7	Drama	3
8	Publications	2
9	Hobby/Leisure	1
10	Social	1
11	Honors	1

Observations/Interpretations

* More than one-half (56%) of the activity participants were in the athletic/sport related category.

* One-fifth (20%) of the participants were in the music area.

* Slightly more than one-twentieth (6%) of the participants were reported to be involved in the class related area.

* Less than one in twenty of the junior high school activity participants were involved in the governance, service, cheerleading, drama, publications, hobby/leisure, or social related categories.

Table 12 presents the activities in which junior high school students participated most extensively. They are ranked within the general activity categories. The ratio of female to male participants is reported for each activity.

TABLE 12

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES RANKED BY PARTICIPATION
WITH NUMBER OF FEMALES PER 100 PARTICIPANTS

Activity	Rank	# Females/100
Athletic/Sport Related		
Track/Field	1	44
Basketball	2	33
Volleyball	3	72
Football	4	4
Softball	5	52
Wrestling	6	2
Gymnastics	7	77
Cross Country	8	30
Intramurals	9	40
Soccer	10	37
Baseball	11	7

TABLE 12 (continued)

Activity	Rank	# Females/100
Bowling	12	44
Field Hockey	13	45
Tennis	14	47
Girls Athletic Assoc.	15	98
Music Related		
Chorus, Choir, Glee Club	1	71
Concert Band	2	53
Musical Productions	3	60
Marching Band	4	54
Stage Band	5	38
Vocal Ensemble	6	72
Orchestra	7	58
Pep Band	8	52
Instrumental Ensemble	9	52
Combo	10	39
Class Related		
Science Fair International	1	51
Art	2	61
Science	3	43
Foreign Language	4	59
Industrial Arts	5	25
Mathematics	6	50
Literary	7	67
Future Homemakers of America	8	92

TABLE 12 (continued)

Activity	Rank	# Females/100
Social Studies	9	40
4-H Club	10	52
Governance Related		
Student Council	1	55
Class Officer	2	51
Service Related		
Library Assistant	1	66
Office Assistant	2	66
Audio-Visual Assistant	3	28
School Service Club	4	60
Student Patrol	5	47
Film Projectionist	6	24
Laboratory Assistant	7	60
Student Assistant	8	61
Cheerleading/Pep Related		
Cheerleader	1	97
Pep Club	2	88
Pom Pom	3	100
Drama Related		
Drama Clubs/Plays	1	61
Speech Club	2	63
Publications Related		
Journalism Club	1	66
Newspaper	2	53

TABLE 12 (continued)

Activity	Rank	# Females/100
Hobby/Leisure Related		
Chess Team	1	23
Hobby Club	2	39
Roller Skating	3	64
Recreation Club	4	59
Social Related		
Dance	1	57
Boy Scouts	2	0
Y-Teens	3	100
Girl Scouts	4	100
Girls' Recreation Assoc.	5	100
Honor Related		
National Jr. Honor Society	1	67

Observations/Interpretations

Athletic/Sport Related

* Team sports had substantially more participants than individual or intramural sports.
* The number of female participants exceeded the male appreciably in volleyball and gymnastics.
* The number of female and male participants was approximately equal in softball and tennis.
* Male participation exceeded female substantially in football, wrestling, cross country, intramurals, soccer, and baseball.

Music Related

* The number of female participants exceeded the male in the music areas except stage band and combo, and appreciably in the vocal areas.

Class Related

* The number of females exceeded males appreciably in art, foreign language, literary, and FHA clubs; males exceeded females substantially in the industrial arts, social studies, and science clubs, while participation was similar in Science Fair International, mathematics, and 4-H clubs for both females and males.

Service Related

* Involvement in school service oriented clubs far exceeded that in social service oriented activities.

* The number of female participants exceeded males substantially in library assistant, office assistant, school service, laboratory assistant, and student assistant groups; the male ratio exceeded the female appreciably in the audio-visual, while the ratio was similar in the student patrol.

Activity Schedule

The frequencies with which junior high school activities typically were reported to meet are presented in Table 13. The percentages reported to meet during the respective time frames are indicated in parentheses.

TABLE 13

FREQUENCY WITH WHICH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TYPICALLY MET

Activity	Frequency	
	Weekly/More Often	Monthly
Athletic	x (86)	
Music	x (75)	
Class	x (59)	
Drama	x (57)	
Honors		x (29)[1]
Service	x (78)	
Cheerleading/Pep	x (88)	
Student Council	x (48)[2]	
Publications	x (62)	
Class Officer	x (34)[3]	
Social	x (61)	
Hobby/Leisure	x (69)	

[1]25 percent reported semi-monthly.

[2]18 percent reported monthly.

[3]29 percent reported monthly.

Observations/Interpretations

* All activity categories typically met weekly or more frequently, with the exception of honors which typically met monthly.

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

Summary

1. There were some 300 activity titles reported in the high schools and 200 in the junior high schools in Illinois.

2. Athletics and sports were by far the most popular cocurricular activities in both the high schools and junior high schools in both numbers and proportions of students participating.

3. Approximately one-third of the participants in athletics and sports were female in the high schools, with somewhat more, 44 percent, in the junior high schools.

4. The popularity among the activity categories was similar between the high schools and junior high schools in that the most popular activities were athletic related--first, music--second, and class related clubs--third. The least popular, as evidenced by enrollments reported, were social related and hobby/leisure related activities in the high schools and social and honors related in the junior high schools.

5. Female participation was greater than male in the areas of music, class, drama, governance, honors, service, cheerleading, publications, and the social related in both the high schools and junior high schools; the number of males exceeded that of females in the hobby/leisure related in both the high schools and junior high schools.

6. Female and male high school students participated in cocurricular activities to about the same extent, although in different areas.

7. The portion of high school students who participated in cocurricular activities decreased as school size increased in most categories, particularly in the athletic, music, and class related areas.

8. Team sports, typically interscholastic, had appreciably more participants than individual or intramural sports in both the high schools and junior high schools.

9. The frequency of meetings was similar in the high schools and junior high schools with activity categories typically meeting weekly or more frequently. Honors related activities typically met monthly.

Discussion

Obviously educational planners should give more attention to the cocurricular facet of the program of studies in view of its importance to parents, the public, and the students. Gallup reported in 1978 that approximately half (51%) of the parents with children in school felt that extracurricular activities such as band, dramatics, sports, and the school paper were "very important" while four in ten said they were "fairly important."[1] In the same writing, Gallup reported that adults responded to the question, "What subjects that you studied or experiences that you gained in high school have you found to be most useful in later life?" Extracurricular activities were rated fourth among ten subjects and experiences. Activities were exceeded in perception of importance only by English, mathematics, and commercial subjects. They were rated of more importance than shop, history, foreign languages, psychology, and domestic science.[2]

The student's view of the importance of cocurricular activities was similar as that reported in a 1975 nationwide survey by Long, Buser and Jackson. Students were asked to select that which was most likely to establish status and acceptance among students. Fifty-six percent of the students indicated "active participation in extracurricular activities" and 19 percent selected "academic success by earning high grades"; 13 percent cited "active involvement in student government," the remainder indicated "having a car to drive to school" (10%), or "being a nonparticipant in extracurricular activities" (3%).[3]

It is difficult to ascertain developments or trends in cocurricular offerings and participatin due to the paucity of baseline data. However, there was a 1973 survey of Illinois students reported by Buser, Long, and Tweedy in which students were asked to indicate the extent of their participation.[4] Although it is risky to compare the 1973 findings with the present study since the respondents to the former were students while the respondents to the latter were administrators, it is with this note of caution that the following comparisons are made. The participation in intramural athletics appeared to have decreased appreciably while the participation in interscholastic sports had increased, a change that might be explained in part by the increased interscholastic athletic opportunities for females in recent years. The participation seemed to be appreciably

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[1]George H. Gallup, "The 10th Annual Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitude Toward the Public Schools," Phi Delta Kappan, September, 1978, p. 40.

[2]Ibid., p. 44.

[3]Ruth Long, Robert Buser, and Michael Jackson, Student Activities in the Seventies: A Survey Report (Reston, Va.: National Association of Secondary School Principals, 1977), p. 7.

[4]Robert Buser, Ruth Long, and Hewey Tweedy, "The Who, What, Why, and Why Not of Student Activity Participation," Phi Delta Kappan, October, 1975, p. 124.

less in the service, drama, and hobby/leisure related areas, while participation in the music related and governance related were similar. Participation in the other areas, i.e., publications, class related, cheerleading, and governance, were too close to call.

All of this--the importance of cocurricular activities as viewed by the parents, the public, and the students--in a context of limited baseline data, supports the need for continuous, systematic assessments of cocurricular offerings, participation, and trends. Thus, it is strongly recommended that an Illinois cocurricular census be implemented within the next five years. Further, that in the subsequent studies particular attention should be given to the activities added or dropped since the 1976-1977 study; innovations in cocurricular programs, particularly scheduling, staffing, and financing; changes in participation patterns; and problems or achievements associated with activity programs as perceived by those responsible for their direction. Additionally, the feasibility of assessing from a sample of students the extent of their participation in activities and the reasons they do or do not participate should be considered.

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